

A New Year's Message from Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler

As we head full steam into the New Year, it is truly an exciting time to be in our City.

Guided by the principles and values embodied in our Citywide Vision and Strategic Plan, Fort Lauderdale is building community, enhancing quality of life, strengthening civic engagement, and creating a healthy, active, inclusive, and sustainable community.

Our economic resurgence continues to make headlines. Property values rose 6.9%, marking the third consecutive year of growth, while home sales and prices strengthened. Unemployment dropped to 4.8%, the lowest in South Florida and well below the state and national averages. Our area has seen 60 consecutive months of tourism growth, highlighted by a record-breaking 14 million visitors who pumped more than \$11 billion into our economy during the past year.

The marine industry is surging on the heels of one of its most successful Boat Show's in history, film production is at an all-time high, gas prices are at their lowest levels in nearly six years, and new construction is booming fueled by more than \$1 billion in private sector investment.

Major infrastructure projects have been completed at Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, I-595 expressway, and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Progress continues to be made on game-changing initiatives including: The Wave; All Aboard Florida; Schlitterbahn Waterpark; Aquatics Complex; Uptown District; and enhancements to Sistrunk Boulevard, Riverwalk and Fort Lauderdale Beach, all of which will collectively redefine Fort Lauderdale's future.

The strong performance of our key economic engines is generating national media attention, including a recent profile in [The Wall Street Journal](#) highlighting Fort Lauderdale's renaissance. In addition, we are receiving top rankings for outstanding economic development, sustainability, transportation, technology, recreation, travel and leisure, and quality-of-life initiatives. Our accolades include:

All-America City - National Civic League
Top 10 Best Downtowns - Livability.com
Top 10 Most Exciting Places in Florida - Movoto National Real Estate
Top 10 Most Exciting Mid-Sized Cities - Movoto National Real Estate
Top 10 American Dream Cities - Xavier University and The Burghard Group
Top 10 Greenest Mid-Sized Cities - MyLife.com
Top 10 Best U.S. Cities for Small Businesses - Biz2Credit.com
Top 10 Best Cities to Move to - SML National Moving
Top 10 Small American Cities of the Future - Foreign Direct Investment Magazine
Top 10 Most Physically Attractive Mid-Sized Cities - Movoto National Real Estate
Top 10 Best Places for Veterans to Live - Best Places for Veterans Report
Top 10 Best Cities for Parking - NerdWallet.com
Top 10 Great Cities for Family Vacations - Vacation Critic Travel Planning Guide
Top 10 Most Affordable Summer Destinations - GoBankingRates.com
Top 10 Best Fourth of July Fireworks Shows - USA Today
Top 10 Best Places to Retire - Money Magazine
Top Ranked City for Hispanic Entrepreneurship Rate - WalletHub
Top Ranked Busiest Firehouse in the United States - Firehouse Magazine
Top Ranked Busiest Fire-Rescue Dept. in Broward County, #5 in Florida, #58 in U.S. - Firehouse Magazine
Top Ranked Complete Streets Policy in Florida and #3 Nationally - Smart Growth America
Top 20 Best Foodie Cities for Your Wallet - WalletHub
Most Popular U.S. Beaches - The Daily Beast
Favorite Winter Destination of Canadians - FlightNetwork.com
Most Outstanding Green Government - U.S. Green Building Council South Florida
Happiest Cities for Young Professionals - Forbes Magazine
Top 100 Best Cities to Start a Business - WalletHub
Best Places for Business and Careers - Forbes Magazine
Certified as a Florida Green Local Government - Florida Green Building Coalition
Lowest Travel Taxes among Top 50 U.S. Travel Destinations - Global Business Travel Association
Best City in Broward - New Times

This outstanding national recognition affirms that our economic development strategies, infrastructure enhancements, and community investments are paying off, and sends a clear signal of strength and confidence about Fort Lauderdale's future.

As we move forward in 2015, we will reach even greater heights by working together as a diverse community united behind a collective vision with no neighborhood left behind.

Through bold ideas, innovative partnerships, and passionate civic engagement, we will build upon our momentum while making Fort Lauderdale an even better place to live, work, play, visit, and raise a family.

My warmest wishes to your families and you for a happy, healthy, successful, and prosperous New Year.

May God Bless you and our great City of Fort Lauderdale.

John P. “Jack” Seiler
Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale